

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 – 19 (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of alkylhalosilanes which comprises reacting an alkyl halide with a solid body formed of silicon in the presence of a catalytic system comprising (α) a copper catalyst and (β) a group of promoting additives, wherein said group comprises:

an additive β 1 chosen from metallic zinc, a zinc-based compound or a mixture thereof,

an additive β 2 chosen from tin, a tin-based compound or a mixture thereof,

optionally, an additive β 3 chosen from cesium, potassium, rubidium, a compound derived from these metals or a mixture thereof, wherein

the copper catalyst (α) is in the form of metallic copper, a copper halide or a mixture thereof, and

the solid body includes a supplementary promoting additive β 4 chosen from ~~a derivative of an acid of phosphorus or a mixture thereof~~ wherein the additive β 4 is an alkali metal hypophosphite, an alkaline earth metal hypophosphite, a metal hypophosphite or a mixture thereof.

21. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the catalyst (α) is used at a content by weight ranging from 1 to 20%, with respect to the weight of silicon introduced.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the content of additive β_4 lies within the range extending from 50 to 3,000 ppm.

24. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in Claim 20, wherein, the additive β_4 is added to the solid body in the state in which it naturally occurs.

25. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 24, wherein the additive β_4 is selected from the group consisting of sodium hypophosphite (NaH_2PO_2), potassium hypophosphite (KH_2PO_2), calcium hypophosphite ($\text{Ca}(\text{H}_2\text{PO}_2)_2$), magnesium hypophosphite ($\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{PO}_2)_2$), copper(II) hypophosphite ($\text{Cu}(\text{H}_2\text{PO}_2)_2$), aluminum hypophosphite ($\text{Al}(\text{H}_2\text{PO}_2)_3$), and mixtures thereof.

26. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in Claim 24, wherein the additive β_4 comprises calcium hypophosphite $\text{Ca}(\text{H}_2\text{PO}_2)_2$.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the content of additive $\beta 1$ lies within the range extending from 0.01 to 2.0%.

32. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the additive $\beta 1$ is metallic zinc or zinc chloride, or mixtures thereof.

33. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the content of additive $\beta 2$ lies within the range extending from 10 to 500 ppm.

34. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the additive $\beta 2$ is tin metal.

35. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in Claim 34, wherein the metallic tin is introduced in the form of bronze.

36. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the content of additive $\beta 3$, if used, lies within the range extending from 0.01 to 20%.

37. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in Claim 36, wherein the additive $\beta 3$ is cesium chloride, potassium chloride, rubidium chloride or a mixture of these compounds.

38. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the synthesis reaction is carried out at a temperature lying within the range extending from 260°C to 400°C, under a pressure equal to or greater than atmospheric pressure.

39. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the alkyl halide is CH_3Cl .